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UNITED STATES

Consultation Considers "The Renewal of the Church"

(New Haven, Connecticut) - Laymen and women are not primarily "a consuming unit of spiritual goods distributed by the ministers", but both are productive agents of Christian values, Dean Walter Muelder told the closing session of a consultation on "The Renewal of the Church" on July 20 at New Haven. "As such they stand, for better or for worse, in frontier situations in the Kingdom", he said. He is dean of the Boston University School of Theology.

"This emphasis of the laity must not be viewed as an attempt to secure larger functions or higher status for them in the local congregations or denominations", Dean Muelder warned. "Neither is it an oblique scheme of recruiting assistants for the clergy."

The consultation, attended by 150 laymen and women, was the first of more than 20 meetings being held at Yale University Divinity School in connection with the annual meeting of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee. The Central Committee sessions opened July 30 and close on August 7.

Dean Muelder said that "as Christ came to minister so must all become ministers of his saving purpose according to the peculiar gift of the spirit which each has received".

"The vocation of the church is to serve people in the world and to transform the world. To be sure, the church has a life of its own and a form of its own, but it does not exist primarily to be absorbed in its own internal problems," he said.

The church should be "outward directed in its ministry to and with the community," said Dean Muelder, who served as chairman for the consultation.

This fellowship of ministry belongs to all of God's people, men and women, laity and clergy together, he stressed.

"The dialogue between one man and another, one group and another, becomes at the same time a dialogue between man and Christ."

The "world revolutionary situation" challenges both "immemorial methods of agriculture and the most recent findings of nuclear physics", he said. Both church and state are developing new conceptions of social responsibility.

Other speakers during the consultation included Professor Chandran Devanesen of Madras, India, and Mrs. Frederick Patterson of Atlanta, Georgia.

"Difference in wealth and extra-territorial power will continue to make communication difficult between the Western and non-Western world in their differing approach to Communism", Professor Devanesen said, adding that Communism has "an initial advantage in being able to communicate more easily with many parts of the non-western world than either liberal democracy or Christianity, which are still suspect owing to recent imperialist history".

"If world community is to have any meaning we must learn how to bridge the gaps of culture and history by engaging, not in a separate but a common search for a basis of unity," he said. Professor Devanesen is a layman who is professor of history and political science at Madras Christian College.

Mrs. Frederick Patterson of Atlanta, Georgia, told the 1950 church men and women that "where violence has broken out the church has all too often been silent, and the greater the risk the greater the silence. In the United States the churches are full. Yet, as a whole, they have failed to meet the greatest challenge they have faced in a hundred years - integration. Some would disagree with me, but I think it has failed because the churches, instead of leading the thinking, have been silent."

During the meeting, study groups examined such questions as the Christian doctrine of marriage. The question of the values and dangers of organising men and women in churches into separate groups was discussed.

The adequate theological education of the laity was one of the primary concerns at the meeting. Pioneering experiments in Christian witness were described.

The consultation was organised by two departments of the World Council of Churches. They are the Department on the Laity and the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society. The executive secretaries of the departments are the Rev. Hans-Ruedi Weber, Switzerland, and Mademoiselle Madeleine Barot, France.

Thirty overseas visitors were among those attending the consultation.

E.P.S., Geneva

UNITED STATES

Dean Douglas Horton Is New Faith and Order Chairman

(New Haven, Connecticut) - Dean Douglas Horton of the Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., was elected chairman of the 79-member Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches at its meeting which ended on July 25. Renowned church leaders, theologians, and laymen from many parts of the world were present for the commission meeting at Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, Conn. It was the commission's first full meeting since 1954.

The new vice-chairman of the commission is the Rt. Rev. J.E. Lesslie Newbigin of the Church of South India. Bishop Newbigin fills the place vacated by Dean Horton, who has served as vice-chairman since 1954.

Retiring chairman of the commission is Archbishop Y.T. Brilioth, Church of Sweden. Archbishop Brilioth has been closely identified with the movement for church unity through the Faith and Order Commission since 1920. When the Faith and Order movement became a constituent part of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948, Archbishop Brilioth continued as its chairman.

Confessional representation on the commission includes Orthodox, Eastern Churches, Anglican, Old Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, United, Congregational, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Friends and Moravians.

"Neither the World Council of Churches nor the Faith and Order Commission within it has claims of monopoly on matters of Christian unity. Many developments in the direction of unity are taking place outside the recognisable area of our work. This is as it should be," said Dr. J. Robert Nelson. He is executive secretary of the commission.

"Nevertheless, we must not ignore the impressive fact that this commission holds a unique place in the whole world," he said. The commission "is the only fully international and inter-confessional body which has as its sole purpose the promotion of the unity of all Christian people".

In its meeting in New Haven, the commission concentrated on reports concerning its current studies. Dr. Nelson observed that the European and American theological commissions have pursued their inquiry into the nature of the church "in the light of the person and work of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit" along similar lines which now seem to converge.

"With regard to these theologians, at least, it cannot be said that the European and American ways of thought are of great difference", Dr. Nelson said.

"From the points of general agreement thus obtained they may next proceed to more specific issues affecting the unity of the church. The first issue to be treated is that of Baptism," he said.

The study on the implications of Baptism for church unity has engaged a major share of the attention of the theologians. The role of social and cultural factors affecting Christian unity were also presented to the meeting in a report on the study of institutionalism. Other studies included ways and meaning of Christian worship. Commissions were at work on the meaning of "tradition and traditions".

The Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches maintains a policy of neutrality and non-coercion in regard to church union schemes or programmes of negotiations between churches. In recent years a new policy has evolved which permits the Faith and Order Commission to play a part in the holding of regional or national conferences on faith and order.

"By such means the concerns of Faith and Order which may seem very remote from the daily experience of local and regional church bodies are brought down from the level of world-wide conferences to places where these bodies exist," Dr. Nelson said.

As examples of such conferences he cited the New Zealand conference in 1955, one in India in May 1957 and the forthcoming North American Conference on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek" to be held in Oberlin, Ohio, Sept. 3-10. The Oberlin Conference is sponsored by the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches. Australia plans such a conference for 1959. An inter-confessional consultation is also under way in Europe between Reformed and Lutheran confessions.

A second decision which has changed the work of the commission enables it to hold informal consultations on church union. At Yale July 26-29 a church union consultation was held with 50 persons who have been closely connected with actual negotiations of churches for intercommunion and union. At the present time there are about 35 church union negotiations.

Nominations of new members to the commission include the following: Prof. David Cairns, Church of Scotland; Principal L.G. Champion, Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland; Prof. Edward A. Dowey, Presbyterian Church in the USA; the Rev. Norman Gilkison, Presbyterian Church of New Zealand; the Rev. W.F. Hambly, Methodist Church of Australia; Prof. Basil Ionmidis, Church of Greece; the Rev. P.D. Latuihamallo, Protestant Church of the Moluccas; Bishop Ferdinand Sigg, Methodist Church, Switzerland; Pastor Charles Westphal, Reformed Church, France; and Director Pehr Edwall, Church of Sweden.

Tribute was paid to the retiring chairman Archbishop Brilioth of the Church of Sweden for his long service to the cause of church unity. A silver tray was accepted on his behalf by Bishop Anders Nygren, Church of Sweden. Bishop Nygren is chairman of the European theological commission on Christ and the Church.

Also honoured for his services as secretary of the commission was Dr. Nelson, who completes four years in this post. In September he will become dean of the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Nelson, a Methodist, was also nominated to permanent membership on the commission.

E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY

World Alliance Re-elects Charles Sherman

(Kassel) - The Hon. Charles D. Sherman of Liberia was unanimously re-elected president of the World Alliance of the YMCA at the first full-length meeting of the group's highest legislative body, the newly-formed World Council, on July 4-12 in Kassel, Germany. It was the first major meeting of the World Alliance in Germany since 1909.

Dr. Sherman, who is the first native-born African to head an international Christian organisation, called on the movement's four million members in 70 countries to continue the advance of the Centennial Extension Programme launched during the World YMCA Centennial in Paris in 1955.

Demonstrating that the theme of the meeting, "Go Into All the World", was being carried out, the Committee on Extension submitted more than 120 projects in 70 countries calling for men and money to strengthen existing movements and launch new associations, particularly in Africa.

The YMCAs of the United States and Canada announced a "Buildings for Brotherhood" campaign with a goal of five million dollars to provide "seed money" to associations in 35 nations. The project is in addition to the regular World Service programme which raises more than a million and a half dollars annually. The Council of YMCAs of England, Ireland and Wales and the Scottish National Council reported that their programmes of overseas aid had been doubled during the past year and at the same time a building expansion programme of £2,500,000 is under way at home. The German National Movement and other groups reported similar advances and plans for the future. Said secretary general Paul M. Limbert at the closing session, "This World Council has developed a master plan for the next four years and is working on a future already begun."

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The council adopted a four-year project calling for the enlistment, preparation and sending out of teams of young men for one or two years of service in areas of special needs as part of the Centennial Extension Programme. The team will be international, interconfessional and interracial.

A highlight of the YMCA World Council was the report of two special commissions. One, dealing with Structure and Function, proposed an extensive reorganisation of the council, which will be put into full operation after a transitional year. The report of the Commission on Relationships analysed common concerns of lay movements and churches today and called for further far-reaching consultations on relations between the YMCA and the churches.

No representative of the National Committee of YMCAs of China were present, but reports were given of recent visits of YMCA leaders to China, and the council "learned with thankfulness of the work of the YMCA movement in the People's Republic of China and desires to express warm greetings to its leaders and members".

On the subject of atomic energy, the YMCA World Council went on record "urging governments of all countries to study and support every effort looking toward international agreement that would outlaw the manufacture and use of atomic or hydrogen bombs. In such agreements a special international commission should be established for such inspection as will assure to the peoples of the world that the future production and development of atomic power will be for peaceful purposes only."

The report on refugee work was introduced by Mr. Harper Sibley of Church World Service in the United States, who is chairman of the council's Committee on Work with Refugees and Migrants. Special thanks went to the U.S. churches for their continued support of world YMCA/YWCA services to refugees and special note was made of the generous response of YMCAs and YWCAs in more than 40 nations to the appeal for emergency work with Hungarian refugees in Austria. Special commendation went to the July/August issue of "World Communiqué", This Age of Crisis, issued in connection with the recent Geneva Conference on "The Refugee Problem - Today and Tomorrow", and in cooperation with 38 agencies working with refugees and migrants.

The Rev. Hans-Ruedi Weber, executive secretary of the Department on the Laity of the World Council of Churches, addressed the YMCA World Council on the question of who is to go into the world and how.

"It is clear then that the laity are the spearhead, the front soldiers of Christ's army, because they stand exactly at the point where the great decisions of faith are made," he said.

"The armies of this world fight against somebody in order to defeat their enemies, to gain the victory and by doing so to safeguard their own lives. Churches and Christian organisations are always tempted to conform to this kind of worldly strife.

"While the armies of this world fight against someone in order to win, Christ's army fights for someone because the victory has already been won. In a certain sense the world is already 'in Christ'. Our battle can best be compared with an army entering an oppressed country whose oppressor has been defeated; our task is now to tell people this good news and to manifest Christ's kingship in all the realms and areas of life."

The National Council of YMCAs of Pakistan was accepted as a full member of the World Alliance, and the YMCA of Bangkok, the Association of French Cameroon and the newly-formed National Committee of Lebanon were accepted as associates.

The 160 delegates from 34 countries named six vice-presidents of the World Alliance. They are Dean Conrado Benitez, Philippines; Hugo Cedergren, Sweden; James C. Donnell II, United States; M.H. Doss, Egypt; Dr. Alfonso Lagomarsino, Uruguay; and David M. Robinson, England. Leonard Hentsch of Switzerland continues as treasurer. Thirty-seven other men from 23 countries were elected to the Executive Committee.

E.P.S., Geneva

SOUTH AFRICA

Anglicans Told to Defy Law

A pastoral letter has been read from all the Anglican pulpits of South Africa urging church members to ignore the controversial Native Laws Amendment Bill.

The letter said parishioners "must stand by their consciences" and defy the provisions of the recently passed act which bars Negroes from attending services at churches in white communities without specific permission from the Minister of Native Affairs. The law went into force on July 5.

Signed in the name of the 14 Anglican dioceses, the letter had been worked out by the bishops in conference with the late Archbishop Geoffrey H. Clayton just before his death in March. It was drafted for publication when and if the new segregation measure was put into effect.

"We believe", the bishops' letter said, "that it is morally wrong to follow a policy which has as its object the keeping of any particular group in a permanent position of inferiority, and we believe that racial discrimination practised in this country is directed to this end."

Earlier, the Roman Catholic hierarchy of South Africa issued a statement reiterating the church's stand against apartheid, branding it as "blasphemous" and "anti-Christian". At the same time, the president-elect of the Methodist Church, the Rev. C.K. Storey, said that the churches of South Africa have "tried anxiously to avoid a head-on clash with the state" but the "series of apartheid laws has made the present clash inevitable".

E.P.S., Geneva

INDIA

North India Union Plan Ready

After 28 years of negotiations, the North India Church Union Plan has been finalised and unanimously approved at a meeting in Pachmarhi of representatives of seven denominational bodies. The plan provides for the organic merger of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, the United Church of Northern India, the Methodist Church in Southern Asia, the Methodist Church (British and Australian Conference), the congregations associated with Baptist missionary societies in India and Pakistan, the Church of the Brethren and the Disciples of Christ. (See EPS No. 47, 1951.)

The plan is now ready to be voted on by the governing bodies of the negotiating churches, with a timetable calling for the union to be consummated in 1961.

Accepting the "historic episcopate" as an essential part of the pattern of the merged church, the plan also provides for an act of union based on the immediate full recognition of the ministries and episcopates of all the uniting bodies. Under the plan, the new "Church of North India" will have 31 dioceses. A separate united "Church of Pakistan" is to be established for the parts of the merging denominations which lie across the boundary in that country. A united Church of South India was formed in 1947 as a result of the merger of four bodies, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational.

E.P.S., Geneva

SUDANMissionaries Seconded to Government Schools

In Southern Sudan, where the government has announced its intention of taking over all schools, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, during the next twelve months, some Protestant educational missionaries have been seconded to the government in order that they may continue teaching in the former mission and church schools.

Village and elementary schools for boys have already been taken over. Intermediate schools are still in mission hands and technical schools are being re-organised, but are still held by the missions.

The teachers, seconded at the government's request, have been assured that they will be free to continue their missionary work and it is expected that they will continue to teach in the schools until they can be replaced by Sudanese teachers.

At the same time, a number of Sudanese have been appointed inspectors of schools under the government in the south and several of them are ex-mission teachers and Christians. The Church Missionary Society reports that it has been invited to train Sudanese teachers to teach Scripture in schools. The government has expressed the desire that every child should be taught religion in every school, and CMS says, those children who want it will be taught the Christian religion.

The government is insisting that as soon as possible all teaching will be in Arabic and, since few teachers at present speak Arabic, there is the danger that Moslems will be substituted for them. CMS is urging all new teachers to be trained in Arabic and all missionaries already in the country to learn Arabic as quickly as possible. CMS is sending two new teachers to Sudan next winter, and reports that they have received their visas.

Roman Catholic missions have opposed the government's action in taking over the schools and now protest that they are not being allowed to teach religion in the schools as they had been promised.

E.P.S., Geneva

CEYLONChurches Hold Day of Prayer for the Nation

On Sunday, July 21, the churches belonging to the National Christian Council of Ceylon observed a day of prayer for the nation and 28,000 copies of a "message to the churches" from the NCC were distributed.

The message pointed out that "the misunderstanding and bitterness which have resulted from the passing of the Official Language Bill and which are so grievously threatening the unity of the country have caused us deep concern. At this time the Church is challenged to bear witness to the power of the religion of Jesus Christ to overcome all distinctions of race and community and to bind men together in a true unity of the Spirit."

During the past year Sinhalese was declared the one official language of Ceylon, leaving the minority Tamil-speaking people "with a great sense of grievance and frustration".

Under the leadership of the NCC, a group of leading Sinhalese and Tamil ministers and laymen have met together to study the problem. A deputation called on the Prime Minister on June 19 and made a plea that the Tamil language be given official status and that the Tamil-speaking citizens have equal rights and not suffer because of their race or language. The group expressed the view that

if legislation could be passed covering these principles, tensions would be eased sufficiently for other demands to be considered on their merits. Negotiations are now going on between the government and leaders of the Federal Party (Tamil).

E.P.S., Geneva

KENYA

Joint Ministerial Training Set Up

On July 16 the students of the United Theological College in Limuru, Kenya, held a thanksgiving service marking the formal ratification of the college's constitution and climaxing years of planning for joint training of ministers in Kenya.

The first plan of federation was suggested in 1913, then dropped, but an Alliance of Missionary Societies was formed, and in 1927 the alliance suggested that a divinity school be set up near Nairobi to train Anglican and Presbyterian ministers. That plan was never carried out, but Church of Scotland and Methodist students were trained separately in St. Paul's Divinity School at Limuru, a school which had been started in 1896 by the Church Missionary Society. From time to time joint courses were held and in 1949 joint training was started, on a trial basis. This July the St. Paul's United Theological College was declared to be constituted.

Attending the special service were the Bishop of Uganda, the Bishop of Zanzibar, the Bishop of Mombasa, the Rev. R. Matters, Methodist, and the Rev. R.G.M. Calderwood, moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY

Hilfswerk Aides Arrested as East Zone Bans Travel

Three officials of Hilfswerk, welfare agency of the Evangelical Church in Germany, have been arrested by Soviet authorities in the East Zone on charges of having helped send needy children to West Germany for vacations with relatives there.

News service reports received in New York quoting "reliable Protestant sources" indicate the three Hilfswerk officials have been taken into custody by the public prosecutor in Rostock on the Baltic Coast.

Those arrested were said to be Erich Wegner and Erich Schmidt, Hilfswerk directors in Pommerania and Mecklenburg respectively, and Frau Moeller, district manager at Baddoberan, Mecklenburg.

At the same time, the reports indicated, the Communist government is carrying on a vigorous campaign to get West German children to spend their vacations in the East Zone.

The new move was believed to be tied in with the announcement six weeks ago by the Communists that students of upper schools and colleges were forbidden to travel to West Germany for the holidays. East German officials have not previously objected to needy children from Eastern Germany spending vacations in the West.

The reports said the seriousness of the case against the three Hilfswerk officials could be gauged by an article circulated by A.D.N., official agency of the East German government, headed "Abduction of children and juveniles by the Protestant Welfare Organisation".

Meanwhile, it was learned that Communist newspapers in East Germany have printed several items about the arrival of children from West Germany to spend vacations in the East Zone, and that a welcoming message has been issued to them by a Communist party official.

E.P.S., Geneva

World YWCA Holds Seminar

(Geneva) - A group of 20 YWCA members from Australia, Barbados, Denmark, Egypt, Great Britain, Indonesia, Switzerland and the United States attended a seminar in Geneva in July on the work of the World YWCA and the United Nations.

The seminar, organised by the World YWCA, attended meetings of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and heard briefings on the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Technical Assistance Programme. Also on the programme were discussions of the work of the International Labour Organisation and the International Red Cross.

Leading the morning worship during the week-long seminar was Miss Winifred Galbraith, head of the English Department of Kumasi College of Technology in Ghana. Her subject was "Christian Approach to World Social Problems".

E.P.S., Geneva

Bishop Lilje Speaks on Colombia, Defends Christians Behind Iron Curtain

(Washington) - Bishop Hanns Lilje of Germany, president of the Lutheran World Federation, said in Washington that Colombia's new foreign minister, Carlos A. de Santamaria, had personally assured him that the government which has taken control from former dictator Gustavo Rojas Pinellas is dedicated to religious liberty.

Bishop Lilje, in the United States after his tour of Lutheran churches and missions in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, said the minister "assured me that the government would do all in its constitutional power to restore freedom of worship everywhere in Colombia". He said Lutheran churches have been persecuted in both Colombia and Ecuador, and added, "I may have some complaints that I will make public later, but for now I would prefer to give the government of Colombia a chance to live up to its promise."

Despite the attitude of the new government, some local governors and police officials "still take the position that all Protestantism is a heresy which should be driven out of Colombia for the welfare of the people", the bishop said. "It may be some time before outbreaks of violence against Lutheran churches and missions are curbed."

In Washington, at the same time, the German bishop asked people in the free world not to pass judgement on the leaders of Christian churches behind the Iron Curtain who might be forced to make compromises with their Communist governments.

"From my own experience under the Nazis, I know that the lines are not always clearly drawn." Bishop Lilje was imprisoned briefly by the Nazis during World War II and was under constant pressure from the Hitler government because of his criticism of its policies.

Bishop Lilje said that the Lutheran Church in Germany has taken the position "that the shepherd must remain with his flock. We have told our pastors that even if others flee to the West, they must stay and minister to those who remain. They have a hard duty to perform and I don't think it is up to us to judge them."

The bishop said that "we will not be fooled" by any Communist propaganda which might be voiced by delegates from Iron Curtain countries who attend the LWF Assembly in Minneapolis in August.

E.P.S., Geneva

FRENCH CAMEROONSThe Presbyterian Church Gains Its Independence

(Elat-Ebolowa) - The Presbyterian Church of the Cameroons, which is mainly active in the Southern part of the country, will be proclaimed an independent church at its first regular General Assembly on December 11, 1957, in Elat near Ebolowa.

This church springs from the missionary activities of the Presbyterian Church of the United States which sent out its first missionaries to the Cameroons a hundred years ago. The new African church is now one of the most important Protestant churches in the country with more than 80,000 active members. Its Sunday schools are attended by more than 80,000 children and 40,000 catechumens are being prepared for confirmation. There are 180 parishes with 82 native parsons. The church has a theological college, a training college for teachers and a number of hospitals.

With the proclamation of the independence of the church, the mission station of the American Presbyterians in Elat will be closed and the 100 American missionaries will enter the service of the Presbyterian Church of the Cameroons as fraternal workers.

The Protestant church which grew out of the French Mission, and the Baptist Church of the Cameroons, attained their independence last March (see EPS No. 10).
E.P.S., Geneva

NETHERLANDSThe Netherlands Council of Churches Writes to the Russian Church

(The Hague) - In a letter thanking the Orthodox Russian Patriarchate of Moscow for their Easter greetings, the Netherlands Council of Churches refers to last autumn's events in Hungary which had evoked a different reaction among the Russian and the Netherlands people.

The Hungarian people wish to be free and are being kept down by military force, says the letter from the Netherlands churches to the head of the Foreign Department of the Russian Church, Metropolitan Nicolas. The churches of the Netherlands express concern lest events in Hungary should widen the gulf between the countries of East and West Europe. The sufferings of the Christian brethren of their faith in a number of countries were causing the Netherlands churches increasing uneasiness. "We regret", writes the Netherlands Council of Churches, "that we see no prospect at the present time of taking action with you as a Church against wrong and suffering." The Netherlands churches, the letter adds, feel themselves united with the Russian Church in Jesus Christ who has overcome the whole might of death and the devil.
E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

Archbishop Dorotheos of Athens and Primate of Greece died in Stockholm on July 26. The 68-year-old archbishop had undergone a brain operation on July 8. Archbishop Dorotheos had been appointed to the post in Athens in April, 1956, succeeding the late Archbishop Spyridon.

* *

The first Islamic centre - Washington Mosque - in the Western Hemisphere was dedicated last month in Washington, D.C. Government and religious leaders joined in a dinner honouring the board of governors of the centre. It is sponsored by 15 Muslim countries.

* *

Lutheran World Federation officials have been forced to cancel plans for the famous St. Thomas Boys' Choir from East Germany to sing at the Third Assembly in Minneapolis this summer, because the East Zone government has not granted exit permits for the boys to visit the United States.

* *

The Greatness and Misery of the Intellectual is the subject of the current issue of "The Student World", quarterly review published by the World's Student Christian Federation. Writers for the issue include Eugene Carson Blake, Liston Pope, Paul Ricoeur, Richard Shaull, T.V. Philip.

* *

The Bishop of Chichester, the Rt. Rev. G.K.A. Bell, has called on the Roman Catholic Church to unite with the World Council of Churches in urging a ban on hydrogen and atom bombs. The bishop, honorary president of the WCC, was speaking at an Ecumenical Institute at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. "The fact of such a message, uttered by the voices of the whole Christian world at the same time, would be something new in the experience of Christendom", he said.

* *

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, the executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, has pleaded that contact should be made with the Lutheran churches in the People's Republic of China. He announced that the Federation would be glad to send a delegation to China in order to obtain a better picture of life in the Lutheran Church of China.

* *

The South African government has refused permission for Gunnar Helander, a Swedish missionary, to re-enter the country, although he has worked there for seventeen years. He is at present on furlough in Sweden. The South African government says he criticised their apartheid policy in a lecture he made in Sweden.

* *

More than a thousand Negro and white worshippers attended the first inter-racial service in the history of Normandie Avenue Methodist Church in Los Angeles early this month and heard a sermon by the church's new Negro pastor, the Rev. Nelson B. Higgins Jr. Earlier, the 43 members of the church's congregation had resigned in protest of the appointment (see EPS No. 27). In explaining the appointment, Bishop Gerald B. Kennedy said, "The church has been dying for a long time, because it is in a changing community with about 60 per cent Negroes, and it has locked its doors against them. It either had to change with the community, or lock its doors. I think it's time we stopped running away from these situations."

* *

One hundred thousand persons - a record crowd - jammed Yankee Stadium in New York City on July 20 to hear Billy Graham preach what had been planned as the final sermon of his New York crusade. However, the crusade, which began on May 15 (see EPS No. 20), has been extended through August 10.

* *

A delegation of the Orthodox Church of Finland has returned home after a two-week visit to the Soviet Union. The group said it had found "very good relations existing between the Soviet government and the Russian Orthodox Church, based on non-interference in each other's affairs".

E.P.S., Geneva

